

Introduction

This manual of disaster and emergency management resources was developed to enhance the disaster education programming capabilities of the West Virginia University Cooperative Extension Service. More specifically, it seeks to provide timely, factual and useful information on disaster mitigation, response and recovery topics in a format that is both concise and easy to use. The intent is to make this information readily available to Extension Agents who in turn can extend it to the people of West Virginia via Extension's grass-roots educational delivery system.

Following this introductory section, the next section of this manual provides basic information on family disaster preparedness – information that is relevant to all types of disaster and emergency situations. This is followed by a series of sections that are focused specifically on different types of disasters. By design, disaster's that are most prevalent in West Virginia, such as floods and winter storms, are featured. On the other hand, certain types of disaster events that have limited consequences in West Virginia, such as hurricanes and earthquakes, are not included. The final sections are devoted to disaster recovery activities in the home and on property impacted by a disaster.

Prefacing each of these sections is a brief summary of the scope and nature of disaster risks in West Virginia from a historical perspective. This information is abstracted from the West Virginia State Hazard Mitigation Plan that was completed in 2004. This is followed by a series of fact sheets on specific measures to be taken before, during and after a disaster event.

This manual is not intended to cover every situation. Rather it seeks to provide basic information that is most relevant to the needs of the people of West Virginia. Information is structured in a manner to be conducive to public use. Extension agents are encouraged to use this information both as "preventive education" and in response to a disaster event. Following are some ideas for potential use of this material:

- Incorporate the material into Extension newsletters, newspaper columns, and other media presentations.
- Incorporate the material into Extension lessons and other programming activities with clientele.
- Copy and distribute appropriate information at Extension and community fairs and other events and activities.

- Distribute the information to disaster victims in response to a disaster event. Inform the public of the availability of these resources via a media release, and laminate appropriate pages for copying and distribution. Agents might be proactive in distributing appropriate resources in emergency shelters following a disaster event.

This manual is based on disaster-related resource materials from multiple sources. In most cases the material is adapted or modified from the original source, yet in some cases the original source is used in its entirety. In both cases the source of the resource material is cited. The two major contributors are the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) and its member universities. A primary purpose of EDEN is to facilitate the sharing of resource materials among member universities in advancement of extension disaster education programming. In particular, resource materials were adapted from existing disaster education handbooks developed by the University of Florida, Texas A & M and Wisconsin Extension Services. Each of these handbooks are excellent resources. The reason for developing a West Virginia manual is to reflect some of the unique needs and disaster threats of the State. Resource materials were adapted from the following universities affiliated with EDEN.

- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service
- Clemson University Extension Service
- University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service
- University of Georgia Extension Service
- University of Idaho Extension Service
- University of Illinois Extension Service
- Iowa State University Extension Service
- Kansas State University Extension Service
- Louisiana State University Cooperative Extension Service
- University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service
- University of Minnesota Extension Service

- University of Nevada-Reno Extension Service
- North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T University Cooperative Extension Service
- North Dakota State University Extension Service
- Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service
- Texas A&M University Cooperative Extension Service
- Virginia Extension Service
- University of Wisconsin Extension Service

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